

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-6 and add new claims 7-13 as follows:

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- ~~--7.~~ An appliance for opening and closing reagent container stoppers in partially or fully automatic analysis apparatus, comprising:
- a plunger for engaging and releasing a catch on a reagent container stopper to be opened, the plunger moveable between an at rest position and a working position;
  - an automatic conveyor for moving the reagent containers relative to the plunger; and
  - structure for translating movement of a pipetting-needle carrier to the plunger to cause movement of the plunger.
8. The appliance of claim 1, wherein the translated movement of the pipetting-needle carrier is upward movement.
9. The appliance of claim 2, wherein the structure for translating movement includes two rocker arms and a stop rod.
10. The appliance of claim 2, further comprising a traction drive for moving the pipetting-needle carrier.
11. The appliance of claim 10, wherein the structure for translating movement includes a thrust plate and a catch member.
- ~~12.~~ A method for opening and closing a reagent container stopper in partially or fully automatic analysis apparatus, comprising:

moving a plunger from an at-rest position to a working position;

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